Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1. (Previously amended) A process for the preparation and purification of protein(s) using Hydrophobic Interaction Matrix (HIMAX) technology comprising:
- (a) lysing, in the absence of a detergent, vector cells expressing said protein(s) to obtain a cell lysate;
- (b) centrifuging the cell lysate between 1000g and 10,000g to form a supernatant portion and solid portion;
 - (c) obtaining the solid portion from step (b) wherein the solid portion comprises the protein(s);
 - (d) suspending the solid portion in a buffer of pH 6 to 7. 5;
- (e) forming an insoluble matrix after step (d) by the addition of divalent ionic salt having a concentration ranging from 0.2% to 10% with counter ions of either phosphate, chloride and/or acetate solution to the suspension;
 - (f) subjecting the insoluble matrix to centrifugation optimally to form a pellet;
- (g) subjecting the pellet from step (f) to a repeated desorption process to release the protein(s) from said insoluble pellet by using either Tris buffer of pH 8. 0 to 8.5 or Tris buffer with EDTA at pH 7.0 to 8.0; and
 - (h) recovering the protein(s) through hydrophobic chromatography.
- 2. (Previously amended) The process of claim 1 wherein said protein(s) is/are expressed in yeast.
- 3. (Previously amended) A process for the preparation and purification of protein(s) by using Hydrophobic Interaction Matrix (HIMAX) technology comprising:
 - (a) lysing vector cells expressing said protein(s) to obtain a cell lysate;
 - (b) subjecting the cell lysate to centrifugation ranging from 1000g to 10,000g;
 - (c) obtaining pellet portion from step (b) wherein the pellet portion comprises said proteins;

- (d) suspending the pellet portion in a buffer of pH 6 to 7. 5 having divalent ions ranging from 0.2% to 10% and counter ions of either phosphate, chloride and/or acetate wherein a detergent is not used; and
 - (e) eluting said protein(s) with Tris base salts of high basicity.
 - 4. (Previously amended) The process of claim 2, wherein said protein is a viral antigen.
- 5. (Previously amended) The process of claim 4 wherein the viral antigen is inactivated before said desorption process.
- 6. (Previously amended) The process of claim 5, wherein said protein is one other than a viral antigen.
- 7. (Previously amended) The process of claim 6 wherein said inactivation step is avoided before desorption.
- 8. (Previously amended) The process of claim 7, wherein the chromotographically purified fractions containing the protein(s) are pooled for diafiltration and/or for sterile filtration.
- 9. (Previously amended) The process of claim 8, wherein the divalent ionic salt is a salt of divalent cation Zn, Ca, or Mg, or a combination thereof.
- 10. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in step (d) of claim 3 wherein the detergent is non-ionic detergent.
- 11. (Previously amended) The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the detergent is not used for the preparation and purification of protein(s).
- 12. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in step (h) of claim 3 wherein ultra filtration is carried out using membrane filters of 100-300K molecular weight cut off.

- 13. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in step (h) of claim 3 wherein the ion-exchange matrices is selected from anionic exchange resins such as sulphated cellulose/DEAE matrices.
- 14. (Previously amended) The process of claim 8, wherein the said proteins are highly purified without the loss of biological activity.
- 15. (Previously amended) The process as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein contaminants do not interfere with/affect the process of preparation and purification of said proteins.
- 16. (Previously amended) The process of claim 2, wherein said proteins are viral antigens, recombinant proteins, and/or biotherapeutic proteins.
- 17. (Original) The process of claim 16, wherein said proteins are simultaneously prepared and purified.
- 18. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 16, wherein said proteins are selected from the group consisting of: Rabies antigen, Hepatitis A antigen, Hepatitis B antigen, Diptheria toxoid and Tetanus toxoid.